

Testimony of David Bingham, MD re SB 176

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Honorable Members of the Energy and Technology Committee

Our climate crisis has become obvious and is increasingly a dire emergency. What are you and I going to do about it?

As for our family, we put solar panels on our home and on our barns, and we have had a substantial personal savings over the years. But you, the legislature, limited how much power we could produce, inadequate to produce energy for our neighbors whose structures are shaded by trees.

We still have room on our barns for producing more electrical power, without cutting any trees or shading out farmland. And most of the installations on farms near us have a similar situation. Multiplied statewide, the limitations have cut the potential production of energy by 20% or more, on residential and commercial sites that are already developed and already hooked up to the grid.

It is outrageous that in this crisis we are limiting private and public investment that not only will produce more clean energy, but will provide more jobs, while improving air and water quality, and reducing wind, flood and fire damage.

What can you and I do? We can and must do more to reduce greenhouse gases and eliminate the many costs of fossil fuels that impact our health and our environment.

Increasing shared solar at existing, underutilized sites reduces costs to both investors and carriers, and does so with the least environmental impact, using existing grid connections. Why cap panels and solar power production on existing structures at all???

Please raise or better still eliminate the caps limits proposed in SB 176.
Thank you for raising this bill and for the opportunity to testify.

David Bingham, MD